



# Those are *fighting words*

Metro Talks with UFC fighter Elias 'The Spartan' Theodorou **metroNEWS**

# Halifax **metro**





## FINAL MOMENTS



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## LIFE OF LEATHER

Dartmouth man crafts a story with everything he does **metroNEWS**

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JEFF HARPER/METRO

## 'Give us the power'

MUNICIPALITIES

### Halifax mayor joins call for more financial control for cities



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

The mayor of Halifax says that while the issues may be different across the country, calls for more municipal powers by his colleagues in five of Canada's biggest cities ring true here as well.

An open letter by Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Toronto Mayor John Tory, and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson makes a case for giving cities the jurisdictional power to control their own finances.

"Our request is simple: give us the tools to do the job and the accountability that goes with them and we'll build great cities for the benefit of all Canadians,"

the letter reads.

Mayor Mike Savage had no part in the letter, but he shares the view that cities need to be empowered.

"These are bigger cities than us, but the comments are very reflective of where cities are today across the board," he said.

Savage said Tuesday's discussion in Halifax regional council about affordable housing is just the latest example of cities taking on more responsibility.

"What cities are saying is we're the economic engines, and we need to have the ability to have more control over our affairs," he said. "We don't need the provincial and federal governments telling us everything."

Savage said Halifax is making progress already, citing the taxation powers recently afforded to the municipality, but more can be done. "We recognize the unique financial circumstance of Nova Scotia, but we are saying, 'Give us the power to make more decisions on our own.'"

**Council coverage, p. 4**

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# Justice on board with lawsuit

PLANE CRASH

## Transport Canada included in class-action certification

Transport Canada has failed in its bid to be excluded from a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of passengers aboard an Air Canada jet that crashed at the Halifax airport during a snowstorm last year.

Federal lawyers had argued the department could not be sued because it did not owe a duty of care to the passengers aboard Flight 624.

However, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Denise Boudreau decided Tuesday that even though Transport Canada did not owe a duty of care to the flying public, it had to be included in the lawsuit because as landlord for the airport, it could be held responsible for its navigation systems and other equipment.

The Airbus 320 hit the ground about 200 metres short of Runway 05 shortly after midnight on March 29, 2015, as it approached Halifax Stanfield International Airport in gusty winds and heavy snowfall.

The twin-engine plane bounced into the air and crashed near the runway threshold before careening along the tarmac for another 570 metres.

An engine and the plane's landing gear were torn from the airframe amid a shower of sparks and leaking fuel, but there was no fire and the fuselage remained largely intact.



Transportation Safety Board investigators and airport firefighters work at the crash site of Air Canada AC624 at Stanfield International Airport in Halifax on March 30, 2015. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The other defendants in the case had earlier confirmed they would not oppose the certification of the class action.

They include Air Canada, the Halifax International Airport Authority, Nav Canada and Air-

bus SAS, the French company that built the jet.

Lawyer Ray Wagner said all of the passengers aboard Flight 624 will be sent letters asking if they want to opt out as a plaintiff, which would allow them to pursue their own legal

action. The deadline for opting out is March 24.

In a statement of claim, three passengers have come forward to represent the class of plaintiff.

In the claim, Kathleen Carroll-Byrne of Halifax said she

continues to suffer from anxiety, a loss of concentration and a fear of flying.

Halifax resident Asher Hodara said he suffered a mild traumatic brain injury and dental damage.

Malanga Georges Libboy of

## + PASSENGERS

More than two dozen people were injured in the crash, and virtually all of the 133 passengers had to spend about 50 minutes on the tarmac, huddled against a blizzard, before they were taken to an unheated hangar, the lawsuit alleges.

Church Point, N.S., said the crash has left him with profound psychological stress and pain in his knee, neck and mouth.

None of the allegations in the class action has been proven in court.

Among other things, the plaintiffs allege the Halifax International Airport Authority is liable because it failed to properly clear Runway 05 and did not replace an older-style navigation system with a more advanced instrument landing system.

Their statement of claim says Air Canada was negligent because the airline did not provide adequate training for its flight crew, particularly when it came to landing in harsh weather.

As for Transport Canada, the lawsuit alleges the department was negligent by inadequately monitoring the airport's compliance with safety requirements, and choosing not to ensure that the airport had an adequate emergency response plan.

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## CULTURE

# Stage is set again for Shakespeare by the Sea indoors

Halifax regional council set the stage Tuesday for Shakespeare By the Sea to start performing indoors again after a long three-season intermission.

A report passed by council on Tuesday extended the theatre company's lease with the municipality to 2025, and more importantly, opened the door for the theatre company to again stage public performances inside its Park Place Theatre.

Ever since a fire in 2014 damaged the building and inspections afterwards found it wasn't up to code for public use, the company has had no rain venue. That means that unless the weather is perfect for a performance at the Cambridge Battery in Point Pleasant Park, the show doesn't go on.

"It's been a real challenge because when we lose a show if it's raining, which it often does in Halifax, that's loss of revenue, loss of audience, it's harder to attract sponsors when you can't show as many

numbers," co-artistic director Jesse MacLean said on Tuesday.

MacLean said on Sunday that the company lost 13 shows to bad weather last summer, and 18 the year before.

"It's been a long, hard slog since the fire," said Coun. Wayne Mason on Tuesday. "Life gives you lemons, make lemonade, right? With this schedule for the longer term lease and the

federal funding, we could end up with a manifestly better situation than we had before that tragedy."

The company plans to start a capital campaign this summer to raise money to tear down the Park Place Theatre and start from scratch, increasing occupancy and creating a space that could be used by other theatre companies and arts groups. But for now, the company will focus on getting the occupancy permits in place for this summer.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

**It's been a long hard slog since the fire.**

Coun. Wayne Mason



Shakespeare by the Sea suffered a fire in 2014. METRO FILE



**Housing can determine your future and your kids' future and how you move forward.**

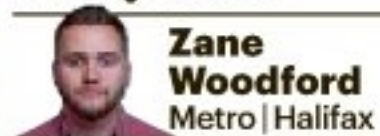
Coun. Lindell Smith

Coun. Lindell Smith argues that housing has a powerful impact on many things, including health. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## City 'not just talking' but doing affordable housing

## COMMUNITY

### Council sets lofty goal to reach in next five years



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

Halifax regional council set a lofty goal with respect to affordable housing on Tuesday, and took a step toward achieving it.

Council voted unanimously in favour of two reports: one to approve the target of creating 5,000 new affordable units in the municipality in the next five years, and another to de-

velop a density bonusing zoning program to entice developers to build more affordable units.

Councillors spoke on the first report for nearly an hour, many expressing their excitement about the next step in tackling the affordable housing problem in Halifax.

"For me, being somebody who is directly affected by housing, and who lived in social housing, who understands that housing is a social determinant of health, dealing with housing can determine your future and your kids future and how you move forward," Coun. Lindell Smith told his colleagues.

"We're not just talking, we're doing, so I commend everybody for that."

Some councillors raised

concerns about the costs of providing affordable housing, given it's not technically the municipality's responsibility.

"I agree with previous speakers that it is not solely our responsibility," Deputy Mayor Steve Craig said.

"However, morally, ethically, to be an advocate for those who have no voice, to be able to do all that we can do within our mandate with haste is quite important."

The second report before council recommended giving developers an incentive to create two- and three-bedroom units for middle- and low-income households — at 30 and 40 per cent below market value, respectively.

The developer would have

**5,000**

The number of affordable housing units to be created in the next five years.

to build at least one affordable unit, use 15 per cent of the bonus area achieved for affordable housing, and the housing would have to remain affordable for 25 years.

Staff recommended density bonusing only for the regional centre, but Coun. Russell Walker was successful in tacking on an amendment asking staff to develop a plan for elsewhere in the municipality.

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# Crafting a story in leather

The Birch Workshop founder says each piece tells its own story, and hopes his belts and bags are well-used.



When Marc Comeau looks at a piece of leather, he sees its history.

"I find it pretty fascinating that just by looking at it, it tells the story of its life," Comeau said recently from his cozy north-end Halifax workshop.

The Dartmouth native started out just dabbling in leather working, but as things got more serious, he began to make his products under the Old Birch Workshop banner just over four years ago.

"At first I was just pretty casually tinkering, but a lot of the supplies I needed I had to buy in larger quantities, so I decided to turn around and sell a few pieces to fund the purchases," he said.

He learned to work in leather in a very modern way: internet forums. "That's the biggest way

I've taught myself is to see something online, try to recreate it, muck it up, go troubleshooting in a forum, come back, try this thing and troubleshoot back and forth."

The operation has grown now to include his partner, Ashley Coombs, who does all of the sewing and waxed canvas work, such as a brand new duffle bag the pair has recently perfected. Coombs and Comeau aim to create minimalist style pieces, with attention to the details and made for everyday use.

"I hope it proves to be useful to them every single day," Comeau said. "I just want to make sure that the things are being used."

## CONTACT

You can reach Old Birch Workshop via their website [oldbirchleather.com](http://oldbirchleather.com)



1 Marc Comeau founded Old Birch Workshop just over four years ago

2 Marc has collected a lot of old tools in his years of leather working.

3 Old Birch Workshop aims to make minimalist, functional designs.

4 A detail shot of the Old Birch Workshop logo freshly pressed into leather. JEFF HARPER/METRO





Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, seen at a press conference in Ottawa on Monday, is being reminded of his pledge that the 2015 election would be the last to use the first-past-the-post voting system. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## MPs under pressure over reform

### VOTING SYSTEM

### Protests held outside Darren Fisher, Andy Fillmore offices



Adina Bresge  
For Metro | Halifax

Concerned citizens in the Halifax area took to the streets of a pair of MPs Tuesday as part of a country-wide effort to hold the Liberal government accountable to its promise to reform Canada's voting system.

A handful of Dartmouth-Cole Harbour constituents showed up at MP Darren Fisher's office for one of two Make Every Vote Count events in HRM with 50 others being held from coast to coast. Another protest was held outside the office of Halifax MP Andy Fillmore.

Organizer Michael McFadden said the crowd in Dartmouth was there to remind Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of his pledge that his 2015 election would be the last to use the first-past-the-post voting system, in which the candidate who receives

the most ballots can win with less than 50 per cent of the overall vote.

"A lot of (people in the HRM) don't like to vote because they figure their vote's going to be lost," said McFadden. "Under a proportional representation system, their vote would count a lot more."

McFadden said an array of voting reforms are under consideration and he is confident that Parliament can find "a made-in-Canada solution."

Fisher was in Ottawa Tuesday, but his staff listened patiently to the group's concerns about Liberals dragging their feet on their commitment to enact electoral reform within 18 months of forming government.

52

The number of Make Every Vote Count protests held across the country.

Rocky Silliker said in the last election, everyone was focused on the stop sign — "Stop Harper." He said Canadians should be able to cast a ballot for their favourite candidate instead of voting "strategically."

"The system, as it is, I think is broken," said Helen Jones, a retired health educator. "It's not democratic. I want each vote to count in proportion to the number of seats in Parliament."

### NATURAL EVENT

## Small quake rocks parts of Nova Scotia

A Little Brook resident who lives two kilometres from the epicentre of a 3.0 earthquake that happened at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday says she thought a big truck had hit her home.

"I heard this humongous bang and I literally thought the house had exploded or someone had hit it as there is still ice in the driveway," said Brenda Doucet.

Residents in Weymouth and Saint Bernard also posted their experiences to social

media of their homes rattling, frightened animals and feeling "something."

Nick Ackerley, a seismic analyst with Canadian Hazards Information Service (Natural Resources Canada), confirmed that a small earthquake occurred.

"It's clearly been felt but this is kind of at the limit of what people feel," he said.

Analysts were working at figuring out how deep the earthquake was. In the past, similar events in this area have been

around 10 kilometres deep.

Ackerley says there's no sign that this was a much shallower event.

"That contributes to it not being very widely felt. It certainly



**I thought the house had exploded or someone had hit it.**

Brenda Doucet

is not going to cause damage," he said.

Epicentre coordinates are: latitude 44.32N; longitude 66.09W.

Last year, on July 1, an earthquake off southwestern Nova Scotia measured 3.8.

"That was almost 10 times bigger," said Ackerley, adding that its epicentre was closer to Bear Cove/Maville. Tuesday's earthquake epicentre was in the vicinity of Church Point.

TC MEDIA



# Vehicles block snow clearing

## WEATHER

**City unable to enforce parking ban before Dec. 15**



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

Winter doesn't just make an appearance between the dates when the municipality's overnight parking ban is in effect.

Monday's blast of wintry weather had some asking why the parking ban, slated to begin Thursday, couldn't be in place for Monday's messy weather.

"The ban itself is legislated and the dates that we are allowed to enforce it are Dec. 15 to March 31 each season," municipal spokesperson Tiffany Chase said in an interview.

Under the ban, vehicles parked on the street that impede snow clearing operations can be ticketed or towed.

Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Dianne Penfound said the number of tickets and



The winter parking ban wasn't in effect for Monday's storm, so some parts of the roads — like Larry Uteck Boulevard, pictured here — were blocked by parked cars. JEFF HARPER/METRO

parking complaints to police in the wake of Monday's storm wasn't out of the ordinary.

On Tuesday, municipal crews were working on clearing up some areas where cars that parked on the street overnight

got blocked in by snow.

"I can definitely say it caused some problems for people in cul de sacs who said 'Well why do the plows keep coming back?' Well they keep coming back because somewhere in

the middle of your neighbourhood, there were three cars parked (on the street) and it's not pushed back to the curb," Bedford Coun. Tim Outhit said in an interview.

Outhit said he wasn't op-

posed to the idea of the municipality having the right to enforce the ban sooner than Dec. 15 if it was ever required.

The municipality's winter parking ban coincides with the dates legislated by the province



**I can definitely say it caused problems for some people.**

Coun. Tim Outhit

to facilitate enforcement of bans throughout HRM.

"There are a number of roads and highways within the municipal boundary that are owned and maintained by the provincial government," Chase explained.

"This makes for consistent communication and enforcement of winter parking bans in effect across the municipality, no matter who maintains the roadway."

Chase reminded drivers that vehicles can still be ticketed or towed any time of the day or night under the province's Motor Vehicle Act if their vehicle is impeding emergency access or snow clearing operations. That can be enforced at any time.

"We certainly do encourage people to secure off-street parking for the entire winter if possible," she said.

## SYDNEY HARBOUR

# Terminal operator signs deal

The biggest terminal operator in North America has signed a deal to work with Sydney harbour to develop and operate a marine container facility proposed for the Cape Breton community.

Ports America says in a news release it would manage and operate the Novaport terminal for 40 years and provide services such as labour management, and the maintenance and repair of the Sydney Harbour Investment Partners facility.

Peter Ford, chief strategy

officer at Ports America, says the Sydney port is well located for vessels on the Great Circle route between Europe and Asia via the Suez canal.

However, a study prepared for the province of Nova Scotia in June recommended that Ottawa and the province be cautious about supporting the proposed facility in Sydney, questioning its economic viability and raising the possibility it will dilute traffic to existing facilities in Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## + BIG PLANS

**Work on container facility could start within 2 years**

The news release says work could start within two years if the project sets up deals with enough shipping companies. It says the facility would be capable of handling the largest container ships in the world.

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# METROTALKS ELIAS THEODOROU

## 'Educated fool' of the Octagon

Star talks growth as a fighter, Georges St.-Pierre, and another Halifax bout



**Philip Croucher**  
Metro | Halifax

Elias Theodorou gives off all indications of being a very nice guy.

Charming, well-spoken, funny, the 28-year-old Mississauga, Ont., native is laid-back and relaxed during a stop at the Metro Halifax offices Tuesday to help promote UFC Fight Night 105, in the city on Feb. 19.

But don't be fooled by appearances; this nice guy turns into a warrior when he enters the Octagon.

At 12-1 overall and 4-1 in the UFC, Theodorou is moving up the ranks of the middleweight division. He'll look to keep up his winning ways when he takes on talented fighter Cezar Ferreira as the MMA organization returns to the Nova Scotia capital for the second time in its history.

Below are highlights from the conversation Metro had with the man dubbed The Spartan. Responses have been edited for length.

### On coming back to Halifax to fight

"This will be the third time that I fought here. I'm excited to be back. I love the town. And more importantly, I'm excited to kick ass."

### On the slow climb to the top of the middleweight division as a UFC fighter

"The median average for my weight class is 32. I'm 28, so I'm four years away from my prime in some capacity. There's a difference between



Elias Theodorou, right, connects with Bruno Santos on UFC Fight Night Halifax in 2014. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

a generalist and a specialist, and I'm always going to be playing catch up because I'm a generalist. I started at the age of 20 and 21, where someone like my opponent has been doing jiu-jitsu since he was 12. There's going to be a big learning curve, but I'm always up for it."

### On when that door shuts behind you in the Octagon

"Everyone has their own different motives. For me personally, I look at it as a test. You studied for your exam, and you passed with flying colours."

### On educating the average Joe on what you do

"Fighting in many ways is an aggressive dance, and whoever leads wins. And I'm a phenomenal dancer. I under-

stand the aspect of a one-track mind in becoming a champion, and what that single purpose is. I personally am a little different. I have two TV shows and a movie in the works. I'm a producer in all of them. I have a BA. I'm an educated fool, with money on my mind."

### On parents who have a kid dreaming of being in UFC

"If you enjoy it, go for it. It's the ultimate form of chess.... Any parent, I would assume, would want their child to go in the direction they want.... Let them go for their passion."

### On his opponent, Cezar Ferreira

"I think he's a classic tough guy that can throw punches and do a blast of them and

### DETAILS

**Tickets for UFC Fight in Halifax go on sale Thursday at 10 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic. They range in price from \$48 to \$183.**

**There are three fights announced for the show, including Elias Theodorou (12-1) vs. Cezar Ferreira (11-5), Thiago Santos (13-5) vs. Jack Marshman (21-5) and Alessandro Ricci (10-4) vs. Alvaro Herrera (9-4).**

put your butt on the ground and try and snuff you out. That said, I think his chin is suspect and there's many different things one can make him do to go to sleep."

### On Canadian star Georges St.-Pierre possibly returning to UFC

"He's training. He's got a passion in his own brain. He's still in that mindset to always do it. Also, no one walks off in the sunset like that. It's not an issue of money; it's how competitive he is. I think it would be something special if he would walk away for his own legacy, just walked away into the sunset, because no one else does that."

### On UFC coming to markets like Halifax

"We have avid fight fans all across the country. What I love about Halifax is it will definitely sell out and it will definitely be packed early."

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## EDUCATION

## Inclusion an 'issue nobody will talk about,' says teacher

It is the unspoken heart of the province's bitter contract dispute with Nova Scotia's public school teachers: Classroom composition, and inclusion of students with special needs.

The public conversation in the dispute has mainly centred around wages and "classroom conditions" — a phrase often used to describe everything from class size to the amount of reporting and data-entry work a teacher has to do.

But scratch the surface and the issue of classrooms composed of students with a range of mental, physical, behavioural and learning challenges is a major concern, according to a Cape Breton teacher with 30 years of experience.

"It is the issue that nobody will talk about," said Sally Capstick, who admits her own frustration has prompted her to speak out.

"You can talk to anybody off the record and they will say, yeah, inclusion is not working," she said. "But it's one of those motherhood issues that makes it sound that you don't want special needs kids."

But Capstick, who makes it

clear she is speaking for herself and not the union, believes a conversation is needed around improving inclusion. She said teachers like her aren't talking about a return to segregating students.

"This is about a system that (currently) doesn't service anybody, including special needs kids," she said.

Education consultant Paul Bennett says the composition of

# 30%

There was a 30 per cent spike in the amount of kids diagnosed with autism since 2008.

classrooms has changed "dramatically" over the last 15 to 20 years.

Bennett said special-needs education should be reorganized, and the place to start is classroom caps on the number of students with learning disabilities. He proposes a cap of five students on individual program plans (IPP) per class as a benchmark.

But following last week's cabinet meeting, Education Minister Karen Casey didn't appear receptive to the idea.

"I don't think we want to talk about caps for special needs students," said Casey. "What we need to make sure is that we have the appropriate programming in the right environment for all students."

The Education Department said about 20 per cent of Nova Scotia's 118,000 students need some form of curriculum support provided by teachers, while about five per cent require an IPP.

Liette Doucet, president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, said there still hasn't been significant movement in the union's demand for more resources and funding around classroom supports. The union has called for more psychologists, guidance counsellors, and resource teachers.

"Class composition is really when you think about it more important than class size," said Doucet. "We really do need to see significant changes when it comes to inclusion."

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**"I'm really thankful for these guys."**  
Amanda Confiat

Cape Breton Unionized Tradesmen players and their coaches helped accident victims Amanda Confiat of Dutch Brook and her young son, Kobi Hillier, along the side of the road just outside of Antigonish on Sunday. TC MEDIA

## Hockey team aids mother, infant son

## GOOD SAMARITANS

### Youth players, coaches helped woman after car accident

Amanda Confiat was on her way home to Dutch Brook to surprise her parents for the holidays when she lost control of her car just outside Antigonish.

Swerving and afraid that she'd veer into oncoming traffic with her young son in the backseat, she managed to aim for the ditch instead. The car flipped and landed on its tires.

"I was kind of panicked," said Confiat, 30, who lives in Halifax, where she's attending school for early childhood edu-

League were on their way back home from a weekend road trip to Halifax when the team bus happened upon the accident. That's when the players and coaching staff sprang into action, helping Confiat and her son out of the car.

"Before I knew it, these guys were at my door," she said. "I was trying to put boots on (Kobi) because he had kicked them off and they were trying to help me put his boots on. The main coach picked my son up and the other guys helped me out of the car and helped me out of the ditch."

The family got on the bus to keep warm while they waited for the police and ambulance to arrive. After Confiat and her son were checked out by paramedics, and with their car out of commission, the team



Amanda Confiat of Dutch Brook and her young son, Kobi Hillier. TC MEDIA

son got checked out at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital when they got home. She has a few bruises, but Kobi was fine.

"We were so lucky," she said. "Somebody was watching over us to have all of that support and not have any injuries. We're really lucky."

"I'm really thankful for these guys. They were so awesome. Even though they were young guys, they were so responsible. It was really awesome and I really appreciated it."

Tradesmen head coach Ken Tracey said he was proud of the way his players handled the situation.

"They all come from great families. There was no hesitation. We didn't have to ask anybody. As the coaches went out the door, they were right behind us."

"We could of asked them to carry that vehicle up out of the ditch and I'm sure they would have attempted it." TC MEDIA

**"We could of asked them to carry that vehicle up out of the ditch and I'm sure they would have attempted it."** Coach Ken Tracey

cation. "It was crazy. Everything in the car hit the roof and came back down. I was just yelling to my son the whole time. He was responding, saying he was OK."

Confiat, her son, Kobi Hillier, who turns three on Dec. 27, and pet shih tzu dog Kaylie were OK, albeit shaken up. That's when a team of hockey players-turned-good-Samaritans came to their rescue.

The Cape Breton Unionized Tradesmen of the Nova Scotia EastLink Major Midget Hockey

offered them a ride home. The players unpacked Confiat's car of her belongings and Christmas gifts and brought them on the bus.

Confiat said everyone made them feel welcome. The teenage players played games with her son and took care of her dog for the entire ride home.

"I'm just really appreciative. It was really nice and everyone was just so accommodating," she said.

Confiat said she and her



# Eighteen-year-olds could legally buy pot

## POLICY

### Federal task force releases report planned on legalization

The federal government will bring in legislation next spring that could see storefront or mail-order sales of legal recreational pot to Canadians aged 18 and older if Ottawa adopts recommendations in a new report.

The report by a task force assigned to study how the Liberals could implement their campaign promise to legalize pot was released Tuesday, and said three provinces, including Ontario, may want to set the legal marijuana consumption age higher to match their minimal drinking age of 19.

Overall, the task force chair said regulation of many aspects of a new legalized marijuana

market should be left up to provinces working with municipalities. It called for strict rules on personal possession, sale and distribution, along with massive investments on public awareness campaigns, research

into the medical effects of marijuana, and on boosting law enforcement's ability to police drug-impaired drivers.

Anne McLellan, chair of the federal task force that released 80 recommendations Tuesday, said the panel "took into account" advice from the Canadian Medical

Association which called for a minimum age of 21 years old for legal consumption based on fears of damage to teenage

users — youth aged 18-25.

In an interview, McLellan said: "18 is the age at which young adults, and I call them deliberately young adults, are expected to be able to make decisions."

The 106-page report did not say at what price it expects organized crime or black market sellers would be squeezed out of the game, saying those questions will be up to provinces and commercial players in the marketplace. Generally its researchers assumed that pot now sells for about \$8 a gram in the illegal market. The task force did not project how much revenue governments could make once they begin collecting taxes on legal pot sales.

But it made specific recommendations that individuals be allowed to legally possess 30 grams for personal use, or grow 4 plants in their own home, without having to face criminal sanction. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



brains.

But McLellan said the report opted for a younger age to avoid criminalization of the highest group of pot

Lellan said opted for a age to avoid inalization of group of pot



People take selfies near Niagara Falls, newly illuminated by LED lights. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Niagara Falls lights up

The nightly spectacle of Niagara Falls lit up after dark just got more spectacular.

A \$3-million upgrade saw the installation of 1,400 new high-tech lights called luminaires that beam brighter and more vivid rainbows of light from Canada onto the famous waterfalls.

Mixed together, the separate red, green, blue and white LED units can illuminate the

waterfalls against the night sky in endless combinations that range from subtle hues to deeply saturated colours.

Perched on the upper level of an 1899 building known as "Illumination Tower," the high-intensity system unveiled Dec. 1 replaced a bank of 21 spotlights, each 30 inches in diameter, that were equipped with coloured gels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Alan Thicke dead at 69

Canadian TV icon Alan Thicke has died, his publicist confirmed Tuesday. He was 69.

According to reports, Thicke died of a heart attack Tuesday afternoon. He was most famous for his role as Jason Seaver, the father from '80s



GETTY IMAGES

sitcom Growing Pains. He had been recently back on the screen as part of the Netflix reboot Fuller House.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ont., Thicke was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Goodbye from Aleppo

Aleppo's doctors, activists and residents bid emotional goodbyes in online videos and social media posts. They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.



**MONTHER ETAKY:** This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans.



**ABDULKAFI ALHAMDO:** At least we know that we were a free people...We didn't want anything else but freedom.



**BANA ALABED:** My name is Bana, I'm 7 years old. I am talking to the world now live from East #Aleppo. This is my last moment to either live or die.



**LINA SHAMY:** Every bomb is a new massacre. Save Aleppo, save humanity.

First came the distress calls from doctors in underground shelters and morgues. Then residents under relentless bombardment in the few remaining blocks under rebel control in Aleppo began posting emotional goodbyes on social media and in widely circulated messages.

They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war. "There is a problem with this

planet," said Monther Etaky, a 28-year old graphic designer. "This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans."

The world's view of the Syria conflict has been largely driven by YouTube, Twitter and Facebook — making it one of the world's most documented wars through amateur videos and coverage. This has given the activists a major role in

chronicling the war, and in lobbying for the world's response.

Nearly six years into the conflict, they complained the world has been looking the other way.

"Why is this silence? People are being eliminated," tweeted Abdulkafi Alhamdo, an English teacher who has been a vocal critic of President Bashar Assad's government. Then, he wrote: "The last

(message). Thanks for Everything. We shared many moments. The last tweets were from an emotional father. Farewell #Aleppo."

A local aid worker who gave only his first name, Omar, sent an emotional recorded message that was widely shared on Whatsapp.

"The government forces are at the end of the street. Forgive us," he said in issuing a tormented

apology for failing to protect the rebel enclave, once seen as the jewel of Syria's rebellion.

After four years of holding onto nearly half of what was once Syria's largest city and commercial centre, thousands of residents of rebel-held Aleppo had been cornered in a one-square-mile sliver of land for days as Syrian government troops, backed by Russia, resisted calls for a cease-fire,

pushing into the territory as rebel defences crumbled.

Etaky said the fast buckling of rebel defences shocked him at first.

After months of siege imposed since July the rebels had no more power to go on, he said. With their families trapped in the city with them, many fighters left the front lines to tend to their relatives' safety.

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A member of the Syrian government forces stands in a severely damaged street in Aleppo's Al-Kalasseh neighbourhood Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Rebels to evacuate in surrender deal as fighting comes to an end

Syrian rebels reached a cease-fire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo in an effective surrender on Tuesday, as Russia declared all military action had stopped and the Syrian government had assumed control of the former rebel enclave.

The dramatic developments, which appeared to restore the remainder of what was once Syria's largest city to President Bashar Assad's forces after months of heavy fighting and a crippling siege, followed reports of mass killings by government forces closing in on

the final few blocks still held by the rebels.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the emergency meeting he had received "credible reports" of civilians killed by bombing and summary executions by pro-government forces.

As word spread of the deal, celebrations broke out in the government-controlled western sector of Aleppo, with convoys of cars driving around honking their cars and waving Syrian flags from the windows.

The UN human rights office

said it had received reports of pro-government forces killing at least 82 civilians in the rapidly-shrinking rebel enclave, including 11 women and 13 children.

A spokesman said the reports described pro-government forces entering homes and killing civilians "on the spot."

Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said hundreds of bodies were still under rubble.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





A House of Commons committee is recommending Canada Post freeze installation of community mailboxes. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

## Panel backs door-to-door mail delivery

CANADA POST

### No need to cut number of service days, it recommends

A House of Commons committee is recommending Canada Post come up with a plan to reinstate door-to-door delivery in parts of the country that lost the service in the last year and maintain a freeze on the installation of community mailboxes.

The report from the Liberal-dominated committee released Tuesday also says there is no need to reduce the number of days a week that mail is delivered, suggesting reduced ser-

vice standards could accelerate the decline the corporation has seen in the number of letters handled.

The committee says that based on its hearings, Canadians are open to mail being delivered fewer than five days a week, but that "does not fit the business models of either Canada Post or its paying customers."

Instead, the committee recommends increases in postal rates, muses about expanding Canada Post's mandate to provide cellular services or broadband Internet, including email services or "the basis for a Canadian social network," and suggests the corporation partner with e-commerce companies to increase revenues.

The president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) said thousands of homes would still not have door-to-door delivery under the committee's recommendation because many addresses were moved over to community mailboxes in 2014 and early 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**830,000**

Addresses moved to community mailboxes to date, resulting in an annual saving of \$80 million.

## CANADA-EU AGREEMENT

**Trudeau, Merkel affirm support for trade deal**  
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talked trade in a telephone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The two leaders affirmed their support for the Canada-EU free trade

deal, which both sides hope to finalize next year. The House of Commons is expected to give second reading approval to the bill that would implement the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHOLESALE

## Costco returns to its roots with new store

Costco is launching a new store format in Canada in 2017 that harkens back to its roots supplying small businesses.

The first Costco Wholesale Business Centre is scheduled to open in the Toronto area in March, according to two senior company executives.

"Sometimes we call it internally the Costco retro — we're going back to our base, back to our roots," said Marc-André Bally, vice-president business centre for Costco Wholesale

Canada.

While the new format is aimed at small-to-medium business owners, including restaurateurs, lawyers, doctors and gym-owners, all card-carrying Costco members can shop the store, at no additional cost.

At 127,000 square feet, the business centre will be somewhat smaller than the 94 Costcos already operating across Canada. But because there will be no ancillary services — no optician, no bakery, no meat-

cutting services — the number of pallets on the floor from which products are sold will be about the same as in a typical Costco, said Andrée Brien, senior vice-president and senior general merchandise manager for Costco Wholesale Canada.

The new Costco format could be competition for Staples, which caters to small businesses and consumers, according to Maureen Atkinson, senior partner, research insights, J.C. Williams Group.

Among the things customers won't find for sale in the Costco Business Centre: diamonds, tires, apparel. Still, at least 80 per cent of products will be unique to the new format, said Bally.

The hours will be geared to a business clientele — from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday to allow them to shop before opening their own businesses for the day. Saturday hours will be 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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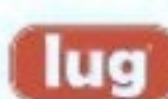
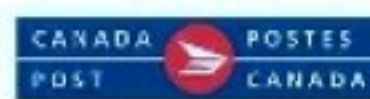
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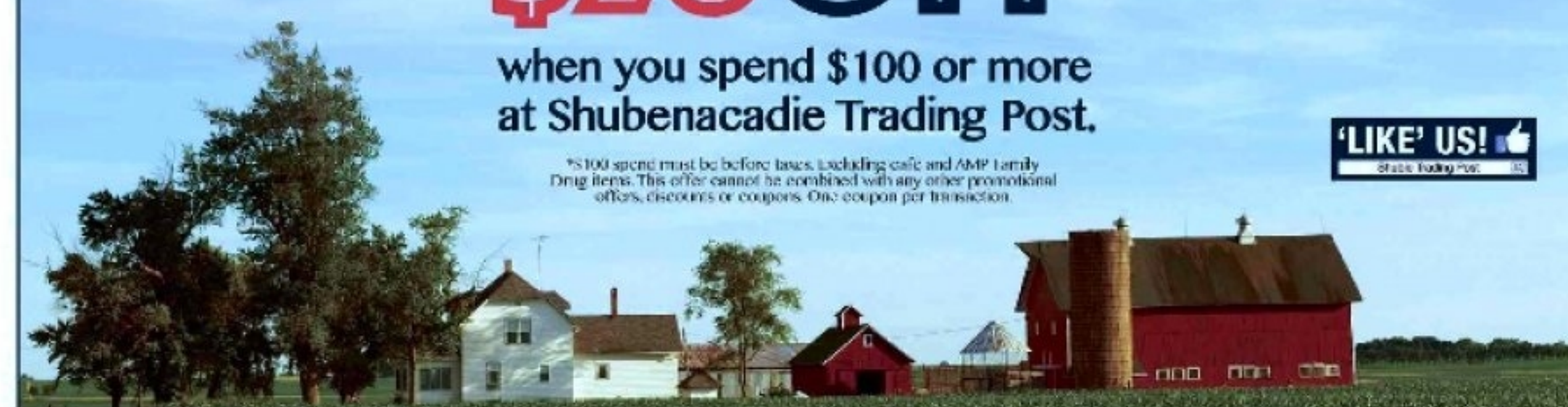
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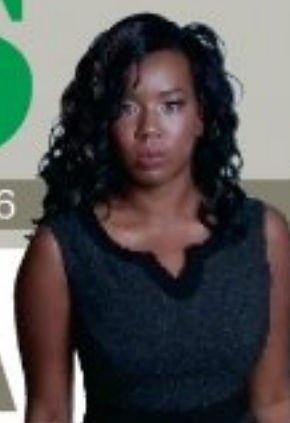
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## metr VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, December 14, 2016



### JESSICA ALLEN ON A CELLULOID OBAMA



## As the real Barack prepares to hand the keys over to the man who led the birthers, the last eight years seem really nice, in retrospect.

This year has seen no shortage of biopics. Films like *Lion*, *Loving*, and *Denial*, have introduced some of us to heroes whose names and stories we didn't know. Others have tackled the more familiar lives of those who go by a singular moniker — think Miles, Nina, Jackie, Sully, and Snowden. And then there's Barry, who now goes by Barack. POTUS is the subject of not one but two films released this year, both of which take place before he was POTUS, and one of which, *Barry*, will be released on Netflix on December 16. Set in 1981, when Obama transfers to Columbia as a junior majoring in political science and English, the film delighted me, along with an audience of 1,200, when it premiered in September during TIFF.

In our house, biopics are a hot topic. Simon refuses to watch them, but I love them. The irony is that we probably love and hate them for the same reasons: the depiction of a life, be it a single defining moment or a broad sweeping cradle-to-grave affair requires reducing, like a good spaghetti sauce. But Simon has little faith in the genre, so I wasn't surprised that he's expressed no interest in watching *Barry*.

"What about *Primary Colors*?" I asked, citing a movie I know he loves.

"That was different," he said. "It was a roman à clef." I couldn't quite see how

**Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future.**

that mattered. Would the film's attempt to show the sordid, warts-and-all machinations of the political process be fatally undermined if John Travolta's character was called Bill?

The thing is, Barry is a nice movie. And as the real Obama prepares to hand the keys to the kingdom over to

contest of op-ed history," Marche wrote a few weeks ago, in a piece called "The Obama Years" for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, "I doubt anyone will be able to capture his saturation of our imagination."

He may be right. But Barry manages to capture something beautiful: medita-

ence waited for Devon Terrell, the actor who had taken on the enormous task of portraying the president of the United States for his first feature film, to speak. And as he told us how he wanted to avoid caricature (he did), how he learned to write and play basketball left-handed, how he had an emotional connection to Obama because change the name and it could've been about him, we rustled in our seats with surprise upon hearing his voice. "I'm Australian by the way," he said.

"We really wanted to make sure that you could relate to Barry," director Vikram Gandhi said, "that you can glean something about race in America, and that even if you forgot who he would become, you'd still believe he would become someone significant."

But it was sometimes difficult to lose sight that Barry would become Barack, especially during a love scene that left a row of women directly behind me whooping and hollering. "Michelle isn't gonna like that," one of them said, assuming for a moment that she'll see it.

And maybe the Obamas will "Netflix and chill." Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future, even though the foreshadowing is not always intentional. When Barry's filmmakers, for example, conceived of the project and saw it through, they must've felt celebratory. Even back in September there were a sense of elation in the audience. But now, the moment portrayed, and the last eight years, feel less like a celebration. They feel like an elegy.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.



Devon Terrell as Barack Obama in a scene from *Barry*. LINDA KALLERUS/NETFLIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the man who led the public crusade for the release of his birth certificate, the last eight years are starting to seem really nice, too.

Under his watch, same-sex couples gained the right to marry, the unemployment rate fell, as did the number of uninsured adults, and Osama Bin Laden was killed, journalist Stephen Marche noted almost a year ago in the *Los Angeles Times*. But not everything has come up roses: "Under an African American president, we've grown used to the fact that white police officers kill unarmed black civilians," he wrote. "Under a liberal president, the rich have gotten richer and the middle class has stagnated."

Yet "even as the world is beginning to tote up his legacies for the great pissing

### VICKY MOCHAMA

## The term 'woke' is hereby put on ice until further notice

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to say goodbye to "woke."

I'm not putting woke away out of meanness; I just want to save it from the same fate as "shade." A phrase from drag culture's rich lexicon, the mainstreaming of "shade" enriched the cultural landscape. At first, "Shade" now has a thriving career in being misapplied by news outlets desperate for millennial clicks. (The misuse of shade is being expertly adjudicated with tireless, if vexed, commitment by Jezebel's Kara Brown.)

Woke must be buried to save us from ourselves. We clearly don't know what words mean anymore.

Woke had a good run. Erykah Badu sang it in her 2008 song "Master Teacher," which birthed the current popular meaning of the word.

Woke had a quiet adolescence in being used mainly by Badu fans and tired people. But always, for Black people, wokeness meant staying alert to the injustices levelled at our bodies and communities, and continuing to resist the systems that perpetrated those injustices. After the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and the exoneration of his murderer, Black people on Twitter reminded each other to #staywoke.

Recently, former Fox News seething chalkboard Glenn Beck has been described as woke. Writing for the *New York Times* he said, black lives matter, possibly, especially for

the couple of black people he has personally met. (I'm paraphrasing but only to save you the time.)

This belief in the partial humanity of black people, added to a *New Yorker* interview in which he admitted to being influenced by Barack Obama, made some people believe that Beck was woke now. He is not.

Beck's media platform, *The Blaze*, continues to peddle the same shrill toxicity that his Fox News show once amplified. Tomi Lahren, a sort of Ann Coulter but blonder and less overtly racist, hosts a show for *The Blaze*. If Glenn Beck is woke, his work man-ages not to be.

Wokeness isn't be a badge to be shined; for black people, it's a mode of survival. And for white populations, it must be matched with a desire and actions to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized.

As the horrors of the Trump presidency are unveiled, people — by this, I largely mean white people — will awaken to the fact that Muslims and Mexicans are, indeed, human beings. They must not be allowed to claim wokeness. Rather than let it be diluted by mainstream (read: white) culture in the manner of a Disney movie, we must put woke into the vault.

Words lose their impact when they cease to mean anything. In the way that "alt-right" obscures hate, "woke" gives many people more credit than they've earned.

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Wonder Woman has been fired from her honorary ambassador job at the U.N. following protests about her suitability as a role model.



## 5 WINES FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF BOSS YOU HAVE

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal), or cologne (too allusive) or a book on how to be a better boss or human being (as tempting as that may be). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, we've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### 1 Young and restless boss

**2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 457119, \$12.95, in stores only)**

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered the glories of fermented grape juice, thrill him or her with this red — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and cool label, it tastes amazing, with loads of ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of bonfire, cigar, baking spices and chocolate-covered burnt almond. And the wine is a tribute to a real-life hero, making it a great boss gift. This bottle was made to honour William "Big Bill" Millar, the boxing champ, war hero, rugby captain and first GM of this wine's winery, KWV. A solid gift idea for the millennial boss. **Score: 89+**



### 2 Praise-happy boss

**Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, \$18.95 reg., \$16.95 till Dec. 30)**

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds? The one who lives for small successes, publicly applauding everything from big business wins to the most inane ideas. Resist the urge to give him or her a box of shiny stars and instead give something to toast the next achievement. So give a bottle or two of this delicious, dry, pear-and-seaspray-scented Prosecco and be done with it. **Score: 94**



### 3 The Devil Wears Prada boss

**NV Paul Danguin & Fils Brut Cuvée Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, \$51.95, in stores only)**

To impress this bejewelled boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that only those in the know would see it for the gem it is. The find? This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim's of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim's labelling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavour of the best-ever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Danguin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen.

**Score: 94**



### 4 Creative genius boss

**2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 470179, \$24.95, in stores only)**

If you work for a creative genius, odds are they didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. So give a bottle that's both smart and scrumptious — such as The Big Smooth, which just hit shelves. The leg-lamp label symbolizes the holidays because it's a prop from A Christmas Story; the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's flavour and texture; and the wine's instant appeal, complexity and polished purity of fruit says you know your stuff. Best part? None of this will be lost on the recipient.

**Score: 91**



### 5 Button down boss

**2010 Montecillo Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 621003, \$18.15)**

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, s/he no doubt has a built-in, knee-jerk, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And this traditional Rioja Reserva, with six years of age on it, is sure to please and offers exceptional value for money. It's sleek glossy texture slides across the palate then broadens and deepens almost instantly to reveal rich but bone dry flavours of black cherry and black raspberry edged with vanilla bean, milk chocolate, coffee bean, toasty oak and toffee. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the flavour intact for ages. You'll want to buy one for yourself, too. **Score: 92**



## All Christmas music 'til Dec. 25th



# Holiday entertaining 911

You did everything right. You kept your guest list tight because you knew a dinner party with more than six people was too much. Then, the calls started. A friend's got a new boyfriend he is dying to introduce you to. Your sister's best friend is in town.

And so on. Now your intimate dinner is a group of twelve. Do you panic and cancel the whole thing? Nah, you've got this.

Or rather, we've got this. A smart menu and a few iron-clad rules and you'll be the host with the most.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

## A secret weapon to leave them thinking you cooked all day

### Roast Pork Tenderloin with Apples and Sweet Potato

Pork loin cooks quickly and takes on flavours beautifully. As your first guests arrive, pop it in the oven and by the time you're done with hors d'oeuvres, it will be ready.

#### Ingredients:

- 1.25 – 1.5 kg pork loin
- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp thyme, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 large firm-fleshed apple, peeled, cored and chopped into 1/2 inch wedges
- 1 smallish sweet potato, peeled and chopped into 1/2 inch discs
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced into 1/4 inch rounds
- salt and pepper

#### Directions:

**1.** Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together 1 Tbsp dijon, 1 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar. Assemble your fruit and veggies in two rows in a roasting dish. Brush the marinade over everything. Pop them in a hot oven for about 25 minutes.

**2.** In that same little bowl



you're going to mix up 2 Tbsp of Dijon, 2 Tbsp syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar and the thyme. Season your pork loin with a grind of salt and pepper, then brush this marinade all over it. Take the roasting pan out of the oven and place your loin in between the two rows of fruit and veg. You might have to nudge them apart a bit but it's fine if they overlap. Put it all back in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. You want the internal temperature of pork to be between 140 and 145 degrees.

**3.** Take everything out and cover with foil and let the meat rest for about 10 minutes. Slice your meat and serve a couple of slices and a scoop of fruit and vegetables on each plate.



ISTOCK IMAGE, FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAYA VISNYE

## STAY CALM



**Sweet Potato Chronicles' three rules to guarantee you make it through with your sanity intact:**

### Never swim alone

Or host. If you're married, divvy up the tasks with your spouse. If you're single, ask one of your guests to co-host with you. And bring dessert.

### Don't make cocktails

It's just too hard when you're dealing with all the food. Serve Prosecco and beer before dinner and wine with dinner.

### Set your music and lighting before guests arrive and don't touch them again.

You'll put people on edge if you're jumping up and down all night.

## Great bites from the cheat sheet to the baking sheet to the platter

### Crispy Brussels Sprouts and Sweet Potato Tarts

All the elements of these little bites can be prepared in advance, warmed and then assembled giving your guests the perfect holiday bite.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 sweet potato, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons of butter salt
- 2 cup Brussels sprouts, quartered
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary

#### Directions:

**1.** Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place



pie crust on floured work surface. Using a 1 1/2 inch cookie cutter dipped in flour, cut out 24 rounds; transfer to prepared sheet, spacing 1/2 inch apart. Place in freezer until dough is firm.

**2.** Preheat the oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Roast in the oven until fork tender, about 20 minutes. Mash potatoes and then mix in butter. Do ahead and store in

an airtight container in the refrigerator.

**3.** Toss Brussels sprouts with remaining tablespoon of oil and salt. Roast in the oven at 425 until browned and tender, about 25 minutes. Do ahead and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

**4.** When you're ready to assemble, preheat oven to 400. Bake crusts until light golden, about 15 minutes. Transfer to platter.

**5.** Re-warm sweet potato on the stove top. Crisp sprouts in the oven. Once your vegetables are warm begin assembling by adding a teaspoon of potato to each tart. Top with sprouts and a few pomegranate seeds. Sprinkle the tarts on the platter with rosemary.

## Rope in the eager early arrival for these zesty palate-setters

### Pears with Goat Cheese and Cranberries

You know how there is always one person that come too early to the party. Well, this is the easy little assembly job you have them do while you finish getting ready.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 pears, cored and cut into two dozen slices
- 1 tablespoon orange or lemon juice
- 1/2 cup goat cheese
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons pistachio pieces
- 2 tablespoons cranberries

#### Directions:

**1.** Core pears and cut into



slices. Toss in orange or lemon juice to keep from browning.

**2.** Mix cheese with honey then spread cheese on widest part of pear slice. Shower cheese with cranberries and some pistachio pieces. Arrange on platter and serve.



# Why Jones' Jyn is the perfect tonic

INTERVIEW

## New heroine is latest to prove that Star Wars is no boys club

Star Wars gets a bad rap for being a boys club, and sometimes rightfully so, but the truth of the matter is that women have always been an integral part of George Lucas's world and the franchise's fan base. On screen, the names Leia, Amidala and Rey are as instantly recognizable and known as any others — and none were ever just playing "the girl."

With this now 39-year-old tradition in mind, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* introduces a new heroine to the ranks — Jyn Erso, an abandoned child of war who must decide what she believes in as the world devolves into chaos. Director Gareth Edwards talked about developing the character and settling on the idea that "Jyn isn't just a woman — she's a person."

"I wanted to make a character that I would want to be. Not to fancy her or want to marry her, but want to be her. It was just a cool person," Edwards continued.

He and the team at Lucasfilm settled on English actress Felicity Jones, 33, to play the part. Already an Oscar nominee for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*, Jones had been making a name for herself in smaller projects, like the indie romance *Like Crazy*.

"For years I've been constantly looking for these kinds of parts and these kinds of films and the



**Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** was the kind of large-scale role Felicity Jones couldn't turn down. CONTRIBUTED

opportunity to make it on such a large scale was pretty hard to turn down," said Jones, who also appears in the upcoming fantasy tale *A Monster Calls* and opposite Tom Hanks in *Inferno*.

Jyn gets the full weight of an origin story in *Rogue One*, out Friday. Her father, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), is a scientist who once worked for the Empire, left that life behind and, at the beginning of the film, gets drawn back in to help finish the Death Star — leaving his young daughter behind to fend for herself.

As an adult, she's forced to confront her past in various ways.

"I like her determination," Jones said. "She doesn't let go of something until she succeeds. She is very, very focused and tenacious in the face of when she's set a task."

And while Jyn is not a princess or a queen or, well, whatever Rey turns out to be, Jones does think she shares similarities with those who came before her.

"They are quite forthright but they are instinctive and they kind of — they don't mess around," Jones said. "She's very true to the other 'Star Wars' heroines in that way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING**

## Word police play it forward

**THE SHOW:** *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, Season 4, Episode 9 (Fox/City)  
**THE MOMENT:** The reporters' names

Hyperactive cop Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) and his deadpan captain Ray Holt (Andre Braugher) are watching an unqualified colleague get a commendation because, Peralta says, they "over-mined" him — gave him credit he didn't deserve. Holt winces at "overmined."

"You know I hate when you make up words," he says.

"Are you still mad at me for saying 'snaccident'?" Peralta asks.

"Yes. Very," Holt replies.

Peralta looks around at the

crowd of reporters. "Even The Times is here," he says.

"Really? Who'd they send?" Holt asks, then fires off, "Wilson? Palmer? Schneider? Levine? Rogers? Tyler? Baker? Schmidt?"

"Stop saying reporters' names," Peralta says. "How do you know so many names?"

"They're the only real rock stars we have left," Holt says.

You know you're invested in a TV show when you feel like they're writing jokes just for you. This particular exchange was like an early Christmas present with my name on it.

Not only are Peralta and Holt a 21st-century Laurel and Hardy, with a delivery that's like a well-oiled lock and key. Not only did

I laugh a long time at "snaccident."

But then Holt — still perfectly within the established parameters of his character, mind you — tossed that lovely bone to us hangdog newspaperfolk, who are reluctantly watching our lights go out all over North America.

This show is allegedly about cops, but really it's about wordplay. The writers (and their hyper-articulate characters) are drunk on it. And this highly specific shout-out is their toast to reporters, their comrades in type.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



## CAREER FAIR

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016** at 4:30pm - 7:00pm  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Dartmouth Crossing  
Banook & Bedford Conference Room

Interviews being conducted on site for immediate opportunities available in St. John's, NL.

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## It'll make you feel like a teen again



### REVIEW

## WRX STI has high level of driving engagement



**Jodi Lai**  
AutoGuide.com

Subaru people are among the most vocal in the world of automotive fandoms about how much they love their cars.

I've driven practically the whole lineup of Subaru cars, and while they are very decent vehicles, I was never overwhelmingly impressed by them. They were good, but not the best. The Subaru fandom always left me a bit confused, and I assumed they adhered to some sort of cult mentality with their blind faith in a quirky brand.

That's until I finally got to drive the 2017 Subaru WRX STI, which may have made me into a convert.

After spending some quality time with the sedan, I am now able to fully understand the draw of the STI. The beautiful thing about it — and let's not kid ourselves, it's not how it looks — is how it makes you drive like a teenager who has nothing to lose. There's a level of driving engagement that is pretty much unmatched by anything else in its price range. It's impossible not to have fun when driving it, even when you're going slow. Cars like this are really rare, and I was actually really surprised by how giddy I felt driving it.

The one thing that people

might not like about this car is that drama. Nobody is going to see this car and assume a responsible adult is driving it. Passersby and law enforcement will notice the huge hood scoop and comically large wing sitting on the trunk, hear the exhaust's aggressive cracks and burbles, and see someone who's looking for trouble. I think that's all part of the fun. Sleepers have their place in the world, but I'm just so entertained by the constant drama surrounding this car.

The fun starts with the powertrain, a turbocharged 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder and permanent full-time all-wheel drive. The engine puts out 305 hp and 290 pound-feet of torque, and the STI is one of the only cars that is still exclusively available with a manual transmission. This six-speed manual is great to use, with short and precise throws (it's much better than the one in the WRX). The gearing for first and second are a bit short and you'll hit redline in no time, so I wish those gears were a little bit taller, but it's not a deal-breaker.

The brakes are sharp, the clutch is the right weight and feels intuitive to use and the steering is also fantastic, heavy, dialed-in and responsive, and quicker than WRX. Off-the-line acceleration is freaky fast, though not drag strip fast, and max torque is available as early as 2,000 rpm. There is a wee bit of turbo lag, but the car feels light, and like it's always ready to throat-punch you, but is also entirely manageable at the same time.

I finally understand what Subaru fanboys are always going on about.

### THE CHECKLIST | 2017 SUBARU WRX STI REVIEW

#### THE BASICS

**Engine:** 2.5L turbo four-cylinder  
**Power:** 305 hp, 290 lb-ft  
**Transmission:** Six-speed manual  
**Fuel Economy (L/100 km):** 13.8 city, 10.2 hwy  
**Price:** Starts at \$40,795 (for Sport model)



#### LOVE IT

- Engaging drive
- Daily usability
- Fandom

#### LEAVE IT

- Cop magnet
- Inferior infotainment

### TIPS

## Steps to storing your car for the long winter season



**Dan Ilika**  
AutoGuide.com

It's December, a dreaded time of year for classic and sports car owners living where the mercury drops and the white stuff falls.

Attachment issues aside, there's no better way to protect your ride from the elements than keeping it out of them altogether. With that in mind, here are eight helpful tips to get your car ready for its winter hibernation.

#### Store it somewhere dry

While leaving your car outside is certainly an inexpensive storage option, it defeats the purpose of taking your ride off the road for the winter months. That's where a garage comes in handy — and preferably a climate-controlled one with a concrete floor.

If it's just not realistic to boot your daily driver out of the garage for the next four months, paying for indoor storage is a worthwhile endeavor.

#### Change the fluids

Before you put it away, it's im-

portant to change your vehicle's fluids. Everything from the engine oil and filter to the coolant — and even the gas — should be replaced with clean stuff to reduce the potential for harmful contaminants floating around vital components.

#### Put it away clean

So you've driven your beloved ride one last time. The next step is to get it ready for storage with a thorough cleaning. Hand-washing and waxing isn't just therapeutic; it also provides an extra layer of protection against

corrosion and damage to the paint and exposed components. A thorough detail job inside and out won't hurt either, and will leave your ride road-ready come spring. Once it's all spick and span, close the windows and put some boxes of baking soda in the cabin and cargo area to absorb moisture.

#### Keep the critters at bay

Insects and small animals like mice love to find cosy places to settle down for the winter, so don't let it be your classic or sports car's cabin or engine

bay. Make sure all the doors and windows are sealed tightly, and wrap up the exhaust and air intake to keep pests from crawling inside.

Steel wool can also be stuffed inside the exhaust and intake if you so choose, but don't push it in too far or you'll be fighting to get it out in the spring. Once that's done, put a quality car cover on it.

#### Prop it up on jack stands

This step may seem a little on the extreme side, but it's an important one — especially if the vehicle is going to sit stationary

### + DON'T START

Use whatever willpower you have to avoid hopping in and starting the engine — unless, of course, you plan on driving it. Idling the engine will do more harm than good.

for weeks on end. Leaving the car on its tires for a prolonged period can lead to flat spots, particularly if it's fitted with retro bias ply tires or softer radials.



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# This custom Lexus is literally LIT

## + IN BRIEF

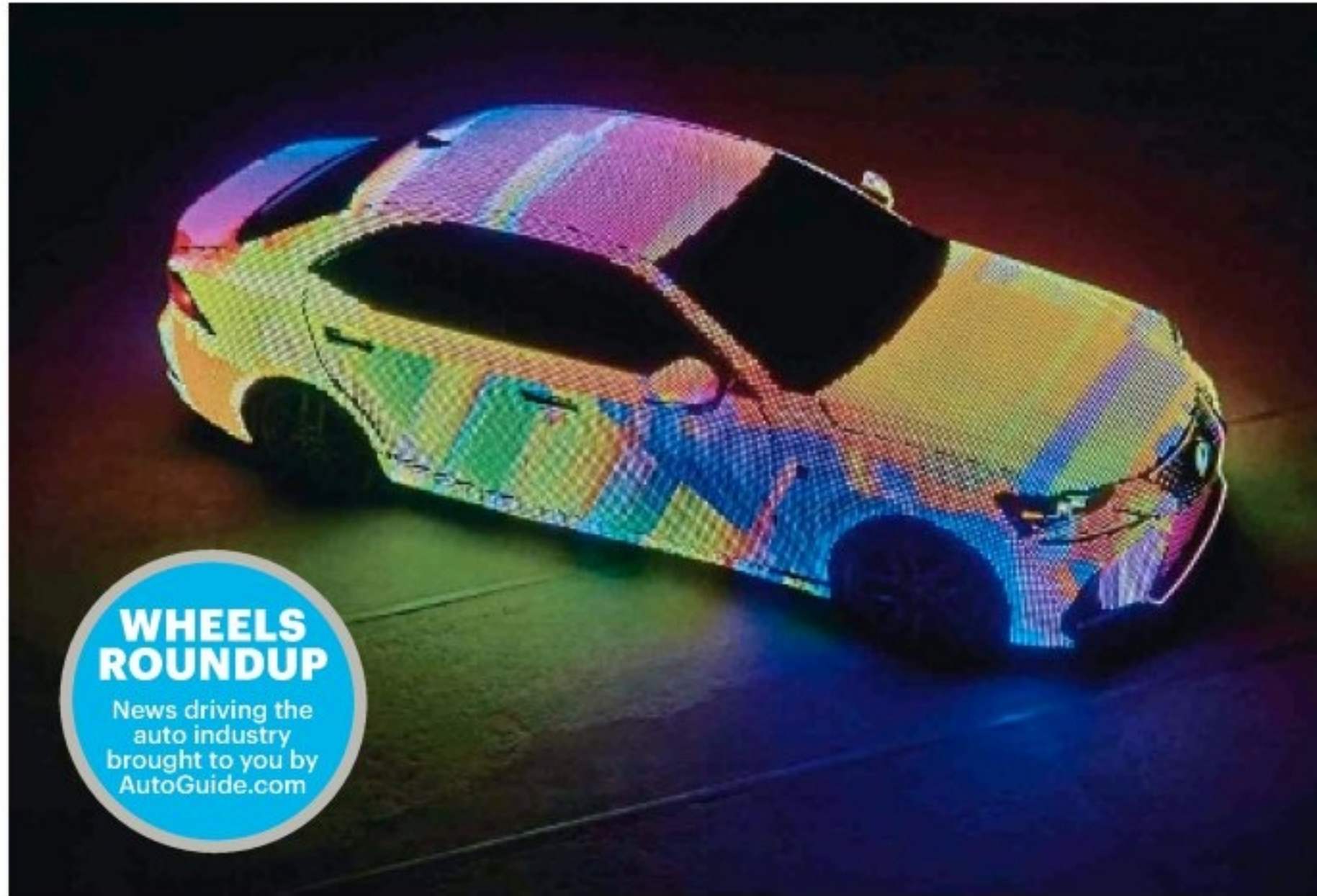
### Alfa Romeo's stunning sedan finally has a price

The 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia will start from \$50,790 including destination in Canada. The base-model Alfa Romeo Giulia is powered by a 2.0-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder engine with 280 horsepower and 306 pound-feet of torque while paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Standard on the sedan are leather seats, 10-way power front seats including four-way lumbar, bi-xenon headlights with signature LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights, dual exhaust, backup camera with dynamic gridlines and rear park sensors, bright chrome window trim surround, remote proximity sensor with push button start, remote start, seven-inch full-colour TFT display and more.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

## WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com



## LED LIGHTS

### Lexus stars in music video

Producing 175,000 lumens when fully illuminated, the Lexus LIT IS has just debuted featuring 41,999 programmable LEDs. According to the Japanese luxury automaker, the custom IS was designed to send a bold signal, with the LEDs turning the sedan into a screen capable of broadcasting graphics and videos. The LIT IS is featured in U.K. chart-topping artist Dua Lipa's new music video for her hit song Be the One. To showcase the Lexus IS as a work of art, technology, and design, Lexus teamed up with Vevo to use hand-applied LEDs to help generate colourful, mesmerizing animations in response to gestures and music. If all the LED strips that were used on the LIT IS were placed end to end, it would stretch half a mile in length.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

## THE *Thoughtful* TEST DRIVE

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# Herd veteran making a point to show his worth

QM/JHL

## Fortier turning plenty of heads as league's leading scorer

**Adam Richardson**  
For Metro | Halifax

It's easy to find Maxime Fortier these days. The veteran forward is all over ice — and the scoresheet — as an offensive catalyst for the Halifax Mooseheads.

His name is at the very top of all Quebec Major Junior Hockey League scorers with 16 goals and 50 points in 31 games.

If the Montreal native's breakout campaign surprises fans outside of Halifax, perhaps it's important to understand his career trajectory. Fortier says junior hockey is as much about personal growth as it is about his ample skill and speed. You can't reach the top without making the climb.

"I just always want to be better every season, and that comes from working on little things all the time," said Fortier, who turns 19 on Thursday. "I know the offence will be there, but there are still areas of the game where you can improve each year."

"You can get better every night, both as a player and as a team."

Fortier's done exactly that in his Mooseheads career. Drafted in the second round in 2013, he's been a stalwart in the lineup for three years, rarely missing time and evolving along the way. Last year, his production jumped to 31 goals and 77 points following a 30-point rookie season in 2014-15.

This season's influx of much-hyped young talent

such as Swiss star Nico Hischier and first-overall draft pick Benoit Olivier-Groulx are part of a dangerous new offensive squad, but Fortier remains a go-to leader both on the ice and in the dressing room.

"Max is a good person, first and foremost," said Mooseheads head coach Andre Tourigny. "Every-

one can see he has tons of skill and speed, but the competitiveness and hard work led him there. Max wants to be the difference every night, and he works to be that difference. Guys respect a player who shows up to play that way."

Halifax is loaded with the type of high-end prospects scouts come to the rink to evaluate, and that may work in Fortier's favour moving forward. After all, it's hard to miss a guy on pace for 110 points this season. Yet Fortier seems

### + TITAN VISIT

■ The offensive fireworks may continue Wednesday at Scotiabank Centre as the Bathurst Titan visit in a rematch of last month's wild 11-10 affair.

■ Halifax is 15-13-3, while Bathurst is 15-14-3.

■ Puck drop is 7 p.m.

only concerned with the next game and the little adjustments that fuel his success.

"I play to win games, and right now that means we all need to work harder defensively. I know the points will be there."

**"Max wants to be the difference every night, and he works to be that difference. Guys respect a player who shows up to play that way."** Mooseheads head coach Andre Tourigny



**Maxime Fortier**  
JEFF HARPER/METRO

HOCKEY

## Speers nears Canada's final cut

Blake Speers was anxious heading into camp over whether the wrist he broke in October would hold up enough for him to make Canada's team for the world junior championship.

All went well as Speers helped set up a goal and the juniors downed the U Sports all-stars 3-0 on Tuesday afternoon, less than 24 hours after beating the national student selects 5-3 in Boisbriand, Que.

Speers, captain of his hometown Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, only played in the second game but saw a lot of action on a line with Mathieu Joseph and centre Nicolas Roy.

"It felt about as good as I could have hoped," Speers said. "I got some good shots in during warm-ups and got some confidence from it and then it was nice to get into a game, finally."

"I could call it about 100 per cent. It's at the point where all I have to do is strengthen it back to normal. That's going to take some time, reinjuring it is not an issue."

Defenceman Victor Mete, who scored Tuesday in the second period, was one of four cuts following the game.

Coach Dominique Ducharme — formerly the Mooseheads' bench boss — said camp, which started with 31 players, will likely be trimmed to the final 22 either Tuesday night or on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Oleksiak winner of Lou Marsh trophy

## SWIMMING

### Four Olympic medals help her edge Crosby for the award

You could excuse Penny Oleksiak for being a little distracted during her high school law class on Tuesday.

After winning four Olympic medals last summer in Rio, she knew she was in the mix for the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year. Oleksiak's teacher let her check her phone during class and the 16-year-old swimmer eventually got the news she was looking for.

Oleksiak was named the winner of the Toronto Star award, selected annually by a panel of sports journalists from across the country. "It was pretty exciting when I found out," Oleksiak said on a conference call. "One of my teachers, Mr. McAlpine, is across the hallway. He was like freaking out after class when he found out. So that was fun."

It was the latest accomplishment in what has been a dream year for the Toronto swimmer.

Oleksiak, who won Olympic gold in the 100-metre freestyle, served as Canadian flag-bearer at the closing ceremony at Maracana Stadium. She added four more medals at the short-course world championship this



Penny Oleksiak was named Canada's athlete of the year Tuesday after her four-medal Olympic debut in Rio. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think."**  
Swimmer Penny Oleksiak

month in Windsor.

"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think," Oleksiak said of her season. "I want to say that just because going into Rio, I definitely had my

doubts about myself. I didn't think I'd be able to even get into finals.

"I think I proved to myself that I trained pretty hard last year and that I was able to exceed expectations."

Oleksiak edged Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby for the honour. Other finalists were sprinter Andre De Grasse, golfer Brooke Henderson, Paralympic swimmer Aurelie Rivard, tennis player Milos Raonic and high jumper Derek Drouin.

"Congratulations @Oleksiak-Penny on winning the #Lou-Marsh Award — you've made Canadians so proud," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Twitter.

Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price took the honour last year. Oleksiak is the first swimmer to win the trophy since Mark Tewksbury in 1992. The Lou Marsh Trophy is named after a former Toronto Star sports editor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## SOCCER

### Plastic-bag Messi meets the real deal

Nearly a year after an image of him wearing an improvised Lionel Messi jersey made from a plastic bag went viral, Murtaza Ahmadi finally met his idol.

The six-year-old Afghan boy made a special trip to Qatar, where Messi was with his Barcelona teammates to play a friendly match against Al Ahli on Tuesday.

Murtaza walked out onto the field with the five-time world player of the year before the match. The boy became an internet sensation early this year when pictures of him playing near his home in eastern Ghazni province were widely circulated. They showed him wearing a plastic bag — in blue-and-white stripes, like the Argentina national jersey — with Messi and the No. 10 written in black marker.

A few weeks later, Messi sent signed Barcelona and Argentina



Murtaza Ahmadi, 6, poses for a photo with Lionel Messi and Barcelona. GETTY IMAGES

jerseys to Murtaza.

Murtaza's father, Mohammad Arif Ahmadi, said in May that the family was forced to leave Afghanistan amid constant telephone threats and fears that Murtaza would be kidnapped because of his sudden notoriety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Everton defeat Gunners

Ashley Williams scored an 86th-minute winner as Everton came from behind to beat title-chasing Arsenal 2-1 at Goodison Park Tuesday.

Arsenal's title credentials took a hit with sloppy defending at the end of both halves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Hazing ritual banned by MLB

That baseball hazing ritual of dressing up rookies as Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls and Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders is now banned. Major League Baseball

created an Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy that covers the practice, as part of the sport's new labour deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Russia bobsled event pulled

Avoiding what would have been a widely boycotted world championships, officials pulled this season's biggest bobsled and skeleton competition out of Russia on Tuesday after a number of sliders said they would not compete in a nation so enveloped in a doping scandal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

# Comforting Mushroom Cheddar Chowder



PHOTO: MAVA VISNEN

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada



Even mushroom skeptics will love this creamy, vitamin-rich soup.

**Ready in 30 minutes**

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 25 minutes  
Serves 4

**Ingredients**

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 large shallot, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced (we like to use a mix of cremini and portabello)
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 3 Tbsp spelt flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp sour cream or Greek yogurt

**Directions**

**1.** In large pot over medium heat, melt half the butter. Add shallot, garlic and carrot and sauté until crisp-tender. Pour in half the stock, then add mushrooms, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

**2.** In a small saucepan, melt rest of the butter. Gradually add flour, whisking until smooth. Add milk and bring to a boil, then immediately reduce heat and continue whisking until mixture thickens a bit, 2 to 3 minutes. Add to soup.

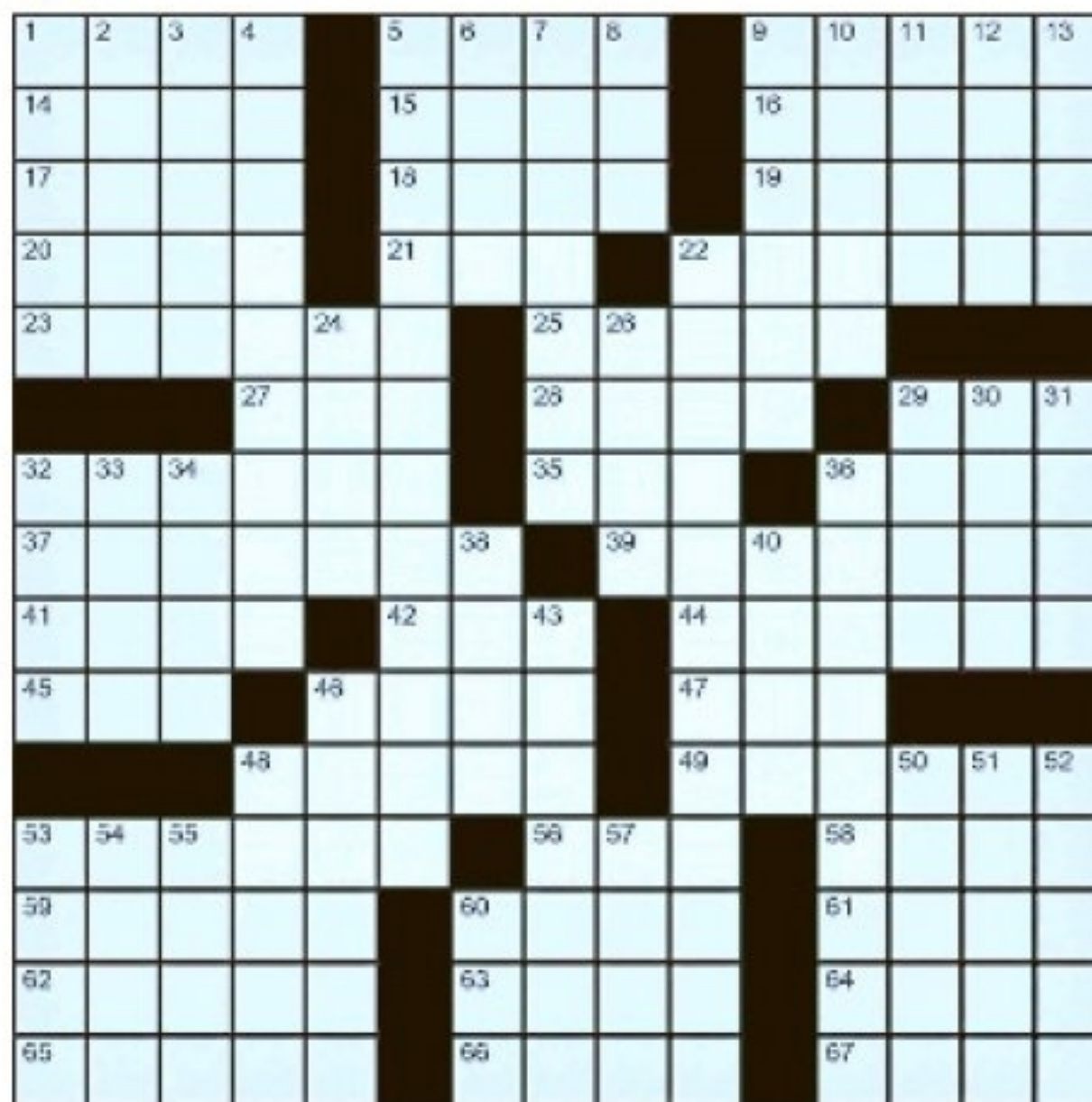
**3.** Stir in remaining stock. Season with salt and pepper. Remove pot from heat and, using an immersion blender, blend soup until desired consistency.

**4.** Ladle into bowls and serve with a helping of grated cheddar, dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**

- Marvel Comics supervillain, the Conqueror
- Santa's gifts carrier
- Sir Newton
- Roman love god
- Moisturizer ingredient
- Figure out
- Appraise
- 'W' in WSJ
- Muggy
- Avoir's cohort
- Richie, to Joanie
- Grate
- Austria's capital
- Pastes
- Driver's
- Chemist's table salt
- Stephen of "The Crying Game" (1992)
- Hard blow sound
- Cheers, 1895
- Twenty = Two
- Stovetop parts
- 'Knee' and 'knot' both begin with one
- Ripened
- Mr. Pacino's
- NHL team in Edmonton
- Mr. Howard
- Pesky fly
- Compass dir.
- 1999 flick in which Alanis Morissette plays God
- Big name in fine art in Canada (Where the masterpiece at #50-Down went to the highest bidder)
- lights (Hollywood premiere illuminators)

- One plus One's answer
- Scottish singer Donovan's actress daughter Ms. Skye
- On (Winning)
- Boyfriend
- Hubbard (Sci-entology founder)

- Novel's name
- "fair in love..."
- Gladiator's 2051
- Discharge
- Actor, Dick Van
- Slitherer's noises

**DOWN**

- Alex ("Grey's Anatomy" character)
- Violin-making family
- Dame Cathedral, in Paris
- Where Nuuk is the capital city
- #9-Down is part

- of the what in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta? 2 wds.
- Wing-like
- Fellow's fragrance
- Ms. Ripa, to pals
- Mount (Peak depicted in the circa 1926 oil on canvas at #50-Down)

- Turns, as milk
- matr
- Keen
- Relinquish control
- Firm such as #49-Across: 2 wds.
- Kind
- Glasgow gal
- Mr. Auberjonois
- 'acte (Inter-mission)
- Inquires
- Ski lift
- Men's label, Boss
- Songbird variety
- Made-for-TV movies
- Hip poetry show
- Extra's delivery on set
- Distinguished
- Medieval 'mug'
- Barbie and Ken
- As per #49-Across... Mountain (Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris' painting which recently sold for a record-breaking \$11.21 million)
- Organic compounds
- German filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl's
- Fill, as hunger
- Lil' math course
- Automatic
- Stroll
- U2 song

## IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
Today your focus is on home and family. If you get a chance, you will prefer to cocoon at home and hide from the busy world out there.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
You have a need to communicate with others today, which is why it's a good day to talk to siblings, relatives and neighbors. It's time to plug in to the local gossip scene.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
If shopping today, you will be more emotional than usual about what you choose to buy. Yes, this could lead to retail therapy.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual about practically anything. However, it also improves your luck.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Work alone or behind the scenes today, because that will make you feel better. You want to pull in and hide somewhat. Take a breather from your busy social life.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
A conversation with a female acquaintance might be meaningful today. In fact, this conversation might actually prompt you to modify or change your future goals.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Personal details about your private life may become public today. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Take a trip or do something different today, because you need a change of scenery. At least change your daily routine. Visit an exotic restaurant.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Today you might want to take care of loose details about inheritances and shared property, because that would be appropriate. (But you won't want to let go of something.)

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today. This simply requires a little tolerance and compromise.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Make an extra effort today to do something to help you feel better organized. Put your papers in neat little piles; clean out the back-seat of your car. Do something.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
This is a playful, flirtatious and prankish day! Enjoy fun times with others, especially younger people. You might extend an invitation to a social event to a boss.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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1	7	6	4	2	8	3	9	5
5	9	8	6	3	7	4	2	1
9	2	4	7	1	3	6	5	8
7	8	5	2	4	6	9	1	3
3	6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4
6	4	7	1	8	2	5	3	9
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